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used and the doubtfulness of some of the assumptions underlying the derivation of the h^2 statistic, it would not be correct to attribute too much importance to the exact value obtained for the degree of hereditary determination of neuroticism. There can, however, be little doubt that our study demonstrates the fact that individual differences in emotional stability in our type of cultural pattern are determined very strongly by inherited genetic factors and to a very much smaller extent by environmental influences of one kind or another. It is hoped that this experiment may be repeated soon with a

better selection of tests than we were able to make at the time this work was begun, and using larger numbers of children than we were able to use, so that we might be able to verify our conclusions and to give a more correct estimate of the exact degree to which neuroticism is inherited in our society.

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- Sjögren, Torsten. *Hereditary Congenital Spinocerebellar Ataxia accompanied by Congenital Cataract and Oligophrenia.* 1950.
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Social Forces

December 1950, Vol. 29, No. 2.—*The effect of war on the German family.*—By O. Jean Brandes.—Hardly any country of Western European civilization has experienced the physical and moral impact of World War II to the same extent as Germany. After World War I there was a decline of paternal authority, a rise in the status of women, a weak trend towards companionship marriage and a slow rise in marriage and illegitimacy rates. These factors are compared with what may be observed at the present time.

There are now, as a result of the war, 171 females to 100 males in the 20-25 year group, and 170 females to 100 males in the 25-30 year group. The birth-rate has been declining since the last peak nine months after the end of hostilities. Illegitimacy figures for the post-war period show an increase of 300 per cent above the pre-war figures. This increase started much later than the change in the official Nazi attitude to illegitimacy, and probably resulted more from the loosening of sexual morals generally found during war. No lasting change in the parent-child relationship seems to have emerged from the war. The marriage rate was at its lowest in the year of defeat and has risen steadily since. The number of wives earning has increased in post-war years, but the husband is still regarded as the undisputed authority over wife and children.

During the war there was a 50 per cent decrease in divorce rates, as many husbands were absent. In 1948 the rate was as high as 225·3 divorced per 100,000 population. This was a direct result of disillusionment and deep moral crisis following the end of the war. The divorce rate is now declining and there are no signs that a high rate will be retained as part of the normal pattern.

JANE ROBERTSON-RITCHIE.

The "Sabines": A study of racial hybrids in a Louisiana coastal parish.—By Vernon J. Parenton and Roland J. Pellegrin.—The Sabines, derisively so called, are a tri-racial group (white/American-

Indian/Negro) living in a Louisiana parish bordering the Gulf of Mexico. In 1940 the total number of inhabitants in the group was 1,371 and they lived mainly in the rural non-farm areas; 56·3 per cent were under the age of 20 and the fertility had reached the unusually high figure of 855, accompanied by a high mortality rate. Although hardy, many suffer from physical ailments and show evidence of malnutrition and anæmia. Because of their isolation and the accompanying lack of medical facilities, their reliance on "healers" and their inability to meet the expense of treatment by orthodox practitioners many diseases are prolonged and aggravated.

They are a marginal people, rejected by the whites and unwilling to fraternize with the negroes, and thus doomed to racial isolation. Their organization is therefore simple and the bases of social organization are age, sex and family.

Their language, French, has a strong influence on their culture. Catholicism on the other hand has been insignificant in fostering group solidarity.

Common law marriage is socially acceptable, although a certain amount of prestige attaches to the Church ceremony; the type of marriage does not appear to affect its permanence.

Education was a problem until recently; the Sabines were not welcomed in white schools and would not go to negro schools, nor to the special schools set up for themselves alone. Eventually the problem was solved by the provision of Church schools.

Their occupations are mainly fishing and trapping, with comparatively little agriculture.

The prosperity of the years after World War I was mainly dissipated in "free spending and fast living." In the 1930's relief programmes were gratefully accepted and the rise of incomes since World War II has been absorbed in a raised standard of living. The war itself had slight effect, because those who left the community and came under other influences did not return. Recreation has changed from a group-centred type to a commercialized urban pattern.

D. ROBERTSON-RITCHIE.

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